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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Opportunities for farm ownership...Wyoming

Washington

1927

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HUBERT WORK, Secretary

Opportunities for Farm Ownership

on the

WILLWOOD DIVISION

SHOSHONE IRRIGATION PROJECT

WYOMING

308
Box 210

ELWOOD MEAD
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
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A farm home on the Shoshone project

One of the best Holstein dairy herds on the Shoshone project

2m R 24 1928

WILLWOOD DIVISION OF SHOSHONE FEDERAL IRRIGATION PROJECT

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING SETTLERS ON THE WILLWOOD DIVISION OF THE SHOSHONE PROJECT

LOCATION

THE Willwood is a new division of the Shoshone project. The Shoshone project is located in northwestern Wyoming, near the Yellowstone National Park. It lies in the north central part of the Big Horn Basin.

Frannie and Deaver, towns on the project, are on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, between Denver, Colo., and Billings, Mont. A branch line extends from Frannie through the middle of the project and through the towns of Garland, Powell, and Ralston, to Cody, Wyo., the eastern gateway to the Yellowstone Park. Those desiring to make the trip by train should get off at Powell, Wyo., where the Bureau of Reclamation maintains its local headquarters.

Those desiring to go to the Yellowstone Park by automobile may also inspect the Shoshone project en route. Good roads connect Powell and Cody with Casper, Buffalo, and Sheridan, Wyo., and with Billings, Mont.

Powell is the principal town on the project. It is a modern western town, with a population of 1,500. Banks, modern stores, garages, lumber yards, grain elevators, alfalfa mill, creamery, moving-picture theater, hospital, consolidated grade and high school, and a number of churches are established at Powell. Representatives of the various professions are also located there. The town is supplied with electric lights from the Government's 1,600-horsepower hydroelectric plant, located at Shoshone Dam, and natural gas is used for cooking, heating, and for other purposes.

The project embraces the Garland, Frannie, and Willwood divisions, having a combined irrigable area of approximately 70,000 acres. The Garland and Frannie divisions have been under irrigation for a number of years, and large areas of alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat, oats, and potatoes are produced annually. In 1926 the irrigated area on these divisions amounted to 38,120 acres, producing crops valued at about $1,000,000.

47681°—27

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ENGINEERING WORKS AND IRRIGABLE AREA

Irrigation works have been completed recently to irrigate about 12,000 acres of the Willwood division. The water for this division is diverted by the Willwood diversion dam in the Shoshone River. In addition to having rights to a large natural flow in the river, the water supply is supplemented by the Shoshone Reservoir, having a storage capacity of 456,600 acre-feet. The reservoir is created by a concrete dam 328 feet high in the Shoshone Canyon. The water supply is ample. Canals, laterals, ditches, and structures are constructed so that water can be delivered directly to each farm.

PUBLIC LAND AVAILABLE

With the exception of a few tracts all of the Willwood division is public land. The land is located 3½ miles south of Powell, and extends for a distance of about 12 miles along the south side of the Shoshone River. On June 1, 1927, part 1 of the Willwood division was made available for settlers. (See map.) This consists of 54 farms of Government land. The irrigable area of these farms varies from 9 to 93 acres. Of these 14 are tracts of about 9 acres each, suitable for farm homes for those who desire to have a garden, keep poultry, and work for others.

Gravity water will be available in 1927 for all of the public land opened to entry.

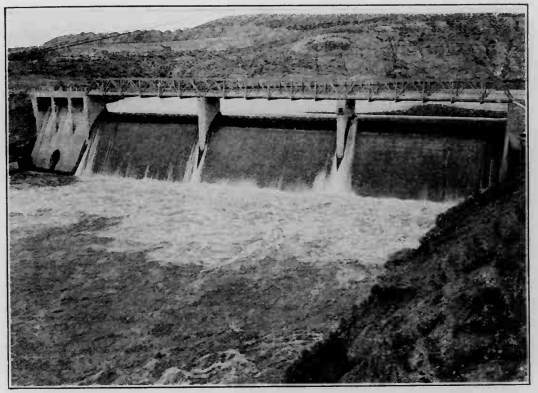
Additional public land will be opened from time to time as required by settlers.

HOW TO SECURE A FARM

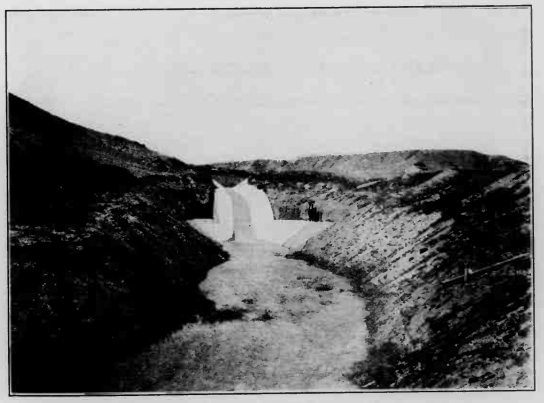
Those desiring to settle on public land on the Willwood division should request an application blank from the Superintendent, Shoshone Project, Powell, Wyo., or from the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D. C. Each question in the application blank should be answered fully and then transmitted to the Superintendent at Powell, Wyo., where it will be considered by an examining board appointed by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of considering the fitness of the applicant to undertake the development of an irrigated farm.

An applicant must be a qualified homestead entryman. He must have also at least $2,000 in cash, or the equivalent in livestock, farming equipment, or other useful assets, must have had at least two years' actual farming experience, and must furnish satisfactory evidence of character and industry.

For the first 90 days after public notice is issued making the land available for entry the examining board will pass only upon applications filed by those who served in the war with Germany. After the expiration of the 90-day period the examining board will con-



Willwood Dam



Inclined concrete drop, Willwood Canal

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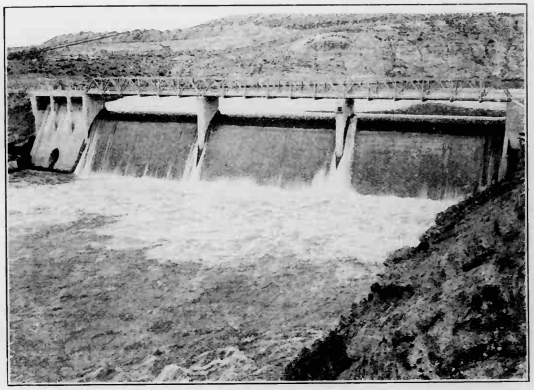

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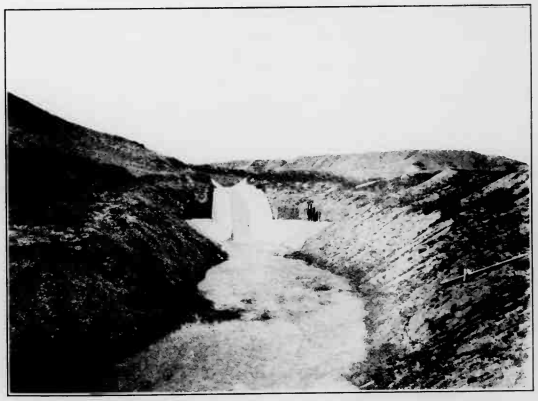


Inclined concrete drop, Willwood Canal

sider applications filed by those who do not have a soldier's preference right. Applications for such of the farms as remain untaken may be made and will be acted upon by the examining board as soon as applicants have inspected the land and appeared before the board.

All applicants are required to appear before the board in person and inspect the land before applications are approved. These requirements will be liberally interpreted so that, if possible, one trip to the project will be sufficient to inspect the land and appear before the board. This will avoid unnecessary expense and loss of time by applicants.

The purpose of this procedure is to grant farms to experienced farmers who are qualified to make a success of farming under irrigation.

The employees of the Bureau of Reclamation at Powell will confer with and advise settlers about the selection of a farm unit and will help in planning its development and in working out a crop program. They understand local soil and climatic conditions and the practical problems of irrigation. Settlers who come to Powell should advise the superintendent in advance of their arrival so they may be met and taken over the Willwood division.

HOME SEEKERS' RATES

Prospective settlers should make inquiry of the railroads concerning reduced home-seekers' rates for passenger fares and freight rates on household goods and equipment to Powell, Wyo.

CLIMATIC, SOIL, AND CROP CONDITIONS

The average elevation of the Willwood division is 4,325 feet above sea level. The total annual precipitation averages less than 6 inches a year. The small amount of snow that falls does not remain on the ground long. Sleighs or sleds are never used.

The average minimum temperature in winter is −23° F. and the average maximum in summer is approximately 97° F. Frosts occur as late as the middle of May and again in the middle of September.

The soils vary from sandy to clay loam, and both types of soil will be found on many farms. All shallow soils over shale or gravel have been eliminated from the irrigable areas.

The principal crops on adjacent farms on the Garland division, where soil and climatic conditions are similar, are alfalfa, sweet clover, sugar beets, potatoes, and grains. All kinds of hardy vegetables are grown.

CROP UTILIZATION AND MARKETS

Alfalfa and sweet clover will be the main crops on the Willwood division until after these crops are broken up, when good yields of potatoes, grain, and other crops can be obtained. Both alfalfa and sweet clover are planted with a nurse crop of grain the first year.

Until better railway facilities are provided it will not be feasible to grow sugar beets on the Willwood division. This is one of the chief crops on the Garland division and no doubt will be grown extensively on the Willwood division when such transportation facilities are provided.

Stock ranges surround the Willwood division. Systematic feeding of ewes, lambs, and baby beef has proven successful on the Shoshone project. Livestock, outside of local requirements, is shipped to Denver, Kansas City, and Omaha.

Either a small band of sheep or dairy cows will be needed on farms to consume the sweet clover and alfalfa. There is a well-equipped creamery at Powell. When dairy cows are kept hogs can be profitably grown. Skim milk, alfalfa pasture, and small amounts of grain produce pork cheaply.

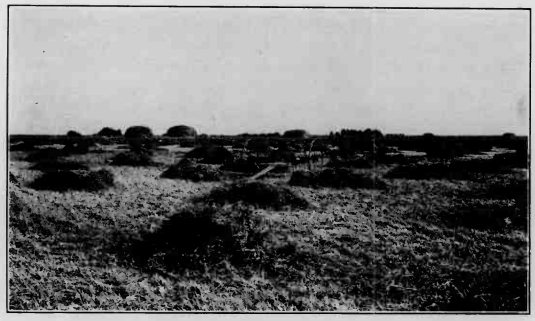
Sheep may be grazed on irrigated sweet clover pastures, divided into convenient fields. This has the advantage of saving labor at the busy season of the year, increases soil fertility and fits in with a good crop rotation. Small droves of sheep may be banded together and placed in care of a herder on the range adjacent to the project, and removed to farms in the fall for winter feeding.

Not enough poultry and eggs are produced in Wyoming to supply its own needs. During the tourist season at the Yellowstone Park the demand for spring chickens, lambs, and berries has exceeded the supply.

Shoshone project honey is noted for its flavor and several carloads are shipped out each year. In 1925 and 1926 it was demonstrated that seed peas and beans can be profitably raised. A seed company is located at Powell and buys these as a cash crop. The climate is especially well adapted to the raising of turkeys, and this industry is on the increase. In 1925 the Big Horn Cooperative Marketing Association sold approximately 300,000 pounds of turkeys, or 15 carloads.

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY

On the Willwood division the underground water conditions have not been tested, but they are probably similar to conditions on the Garland division. On the Garland division it was difficult to secure good underground water during the first several years. The water was brackish, but constant irrigation and run-off from drainage changed these conditions, so that good water is now generally available.



Second cutting of alfalfa on the project

Irrigated potatoes

It was found advisable for the farmer to build a cistern for household use and fill it with mountain water from the canal. A pond was provided and similarly filled for stock water. On the Willwood division, at appropriate intervals, small tracts of land are withheld from entry to permit several entrymen to construct a large water pond cooperatively. Those settling at Willwood should plan to provide cisterns for household use and ponds for stock water, to be sure that an adequate supply of domestic and stock water will at all times be available.

COST OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION

Each approved applicant must file a water-rental application and pay water-rental charges in advance. The minimum water-rental charges for 1928 and thereafter until further notice will be $1.25 per acre for each irrigable acre of land in the farm unit, payable in advance at the time of filing the water-rental application and on March 1 in succeeding years, which will entitle the applicant to 2½ acre-feet of water per irrigable acre for each irrigation season. Additional water will be furnished at 75 cents per acre-foot. Water will be furnished to those desiring it during the season of 1927 at the rate of 60 cents per acre-foot, with a minimum advance payment of not less than $12. The charges for 1927 water, if used, must be paid at the time of filing in addition to the minimum charge for the succeeding year, and applicants filing after the beginning of the irrigation season of 1928 will be given the same terms.

The United States has constructed the irrigation system and the cost of a water right is assessed to each farm unit without profit or interest. The construction costs as fixed by public notice of May 11, 1927, for part 1 of the Willwood division, vary from $69 to $125 an acre, which includes $20 an acre for drainage.

Different construction charges have been fixed against different classes of land in accordance with their productivity under irrigation; that is, the higher construction costs have been fixed against the better lands.

The act of May 25, 1926, provides that the construction cost may be repaid in 40 years without interest, provided a so-called joint liability contract is made with an irrigation district or a water users' association, whereby such irrigation district or association agrees to pay the United States the full cost of the construction of the division without regard to the default of any individual. This is similar to a bond issue in an irrigation district, except there is no interest charged on deferred payments. Interest is charged on delinquent accounts.

Since practically all of the Willwood division is public land, it is not possible to organize an irrigation district under the laws of Wyoming until sufficient settlers are secured to do so. Applicants

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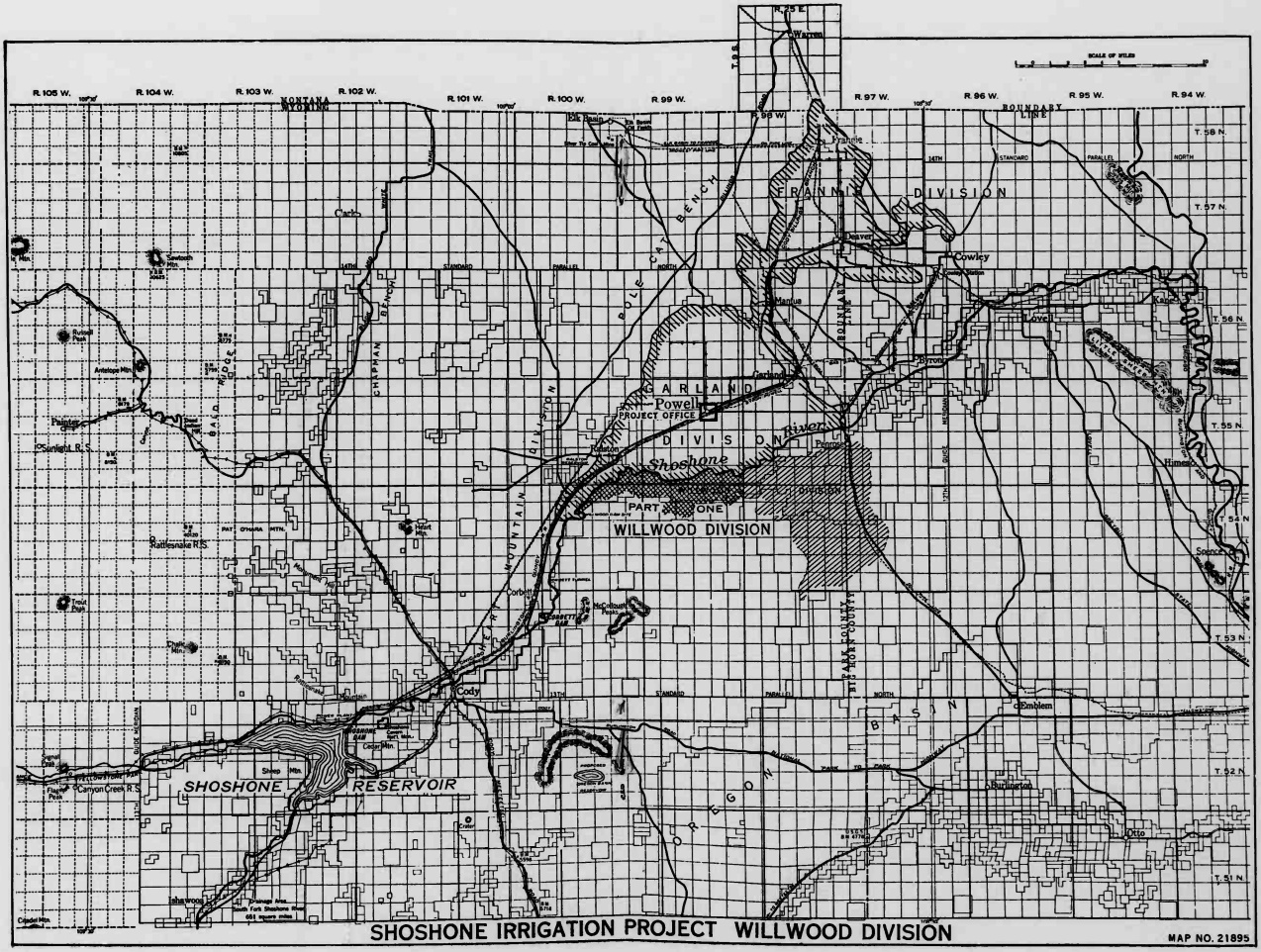
SHOSHONE IRRIGATION PROJECT WILLWOOD DIVISION
MAP NO. 21895
WILLWOOD DIVISION
PART ONE
GARLAND DIVISION
PROJECT OFFICE
Powell
Cody
Shoshone River
SHOSHONE RESERVOIR
Heart Mtn.
Carter Mtn.
Shoe Mtn.
Rattlesnake R.S.
Sunlight R.S.
Canyon Creek R.S.
Cowley
Lovell
Byron
Garland
Frannie
Warren
Deaver
Emblem
Otto
Absarokee
Ishawooa
Crandall
Clark
Corbett
Pitchfork
Ralston
Powell
Meeteetse
Sage Creek
Big Horn Mts.
Pryor Mts.
Owl Creek Mts.
Absaroka Mts.
Beartooth Mts.
Rattlesnake Mts.
Sunlight Basin
Polecat Bench
Chapman Bench
Big Horn Canal
Big Horn River
Big Horn Basin
Oregon Basin
Big Horn County
Park County
Wyoming
Montana
R. 105 W.
R. 104 W.
R. 103 W.
R. 102 W.
R. 101 W.
R. 100 W.
R. 99 W.
R. 98 W.
R. 97 W.
R. 96 W.
R. 95 W.
R. 94 W.
R. 25 E.
T. 58 N.
T. 57 N.
T. 56 N.
T. 55 N.
T. 54 N.
T. 53 N.
T. 52 N.
T. 51 N.
Boundary Line
14th Standard Parallel North
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Sugar beets on an irrigated farm

Holstein dairy herd

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FUEL AND COST

About 7 miles from Powell are local lignite mines where coal can be purchased for about $5 a ton. Coal dealers in Powell handle a good grade of coal at $7 to $8 a ton. It is expected that after a few settlers have located on the Willwood coal will be found in the vicinity of the project, as there are indications of coal deposits on the lower end of the division.

BUILDING MATERIALS AND COST

A study of the housing question on new irrigation projects has been made, and settlers are invited to confer with the local government officials relative to plans and estimated cost of various sizes and types of buildings.

The material for the house 18 by 22 feet, shown in the diagram, if purchased locally, will cost a little less than $500. It includes a kitchen, bedroom, and living room, with a porch 6 by 18 feet. It can easily be added to or converted to other use later. The bill of materials for this house includes cement for concrete foundation, and provides for shingled roof, drop siding, lathed and plastered, brick chimney, two outside and three inside doors, and five windows. The cost of a few of the important items, if purchased locally, in 1927 is as follows:

Dimension lumber	per M	$42.00
Shingles (standard clear)	do	4.50
Brick	do	28.00
Cement	per sack	1.15
Drop siding	per M	60.00

The cost of other items that will be required for farm development is:

Fence posts	each	$0.18
Barbed wire (black)	80 rods	4.80
Nails	per lb	.08

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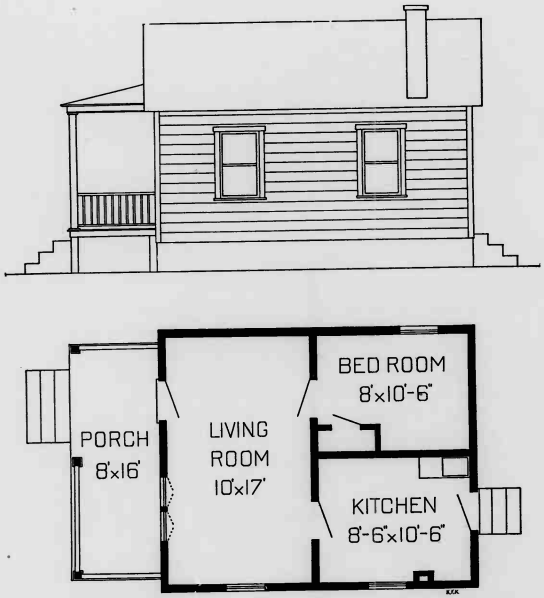


Front elevation and floor plan of frame house. The cost of materials in 1927 is a little less than $500.

EQUIPMENT AND LIVESTOCK AND VALUE

The following is the approximate cost of new equipment and the cost of livestock, poultry, etc.:

Plow (two-way)	$123.00
Harrow (per section)	14.00
Drill (12-foot)	140.00
Mower (6-foot)	98.00
Rake (10-foot)	59.00
Wagon, with box (box $40) (steel-gear)	115.00
Disk (8-foot)	95.00
Sweep rake	85.00
Stacker (overshot)	119.00
Potato planter	115.00
Potato digger	159.00

Horses, $75 to $100 each.
Harness, $50 to $75 per set.
Cows, $50 to $75 each. Extra good, $100.
Sheep, $8 to $12 each.
Hogs, 8 to 10 cents per pound.
Hens, about $1 each.
Turkeys, $2.50 to $5 each.

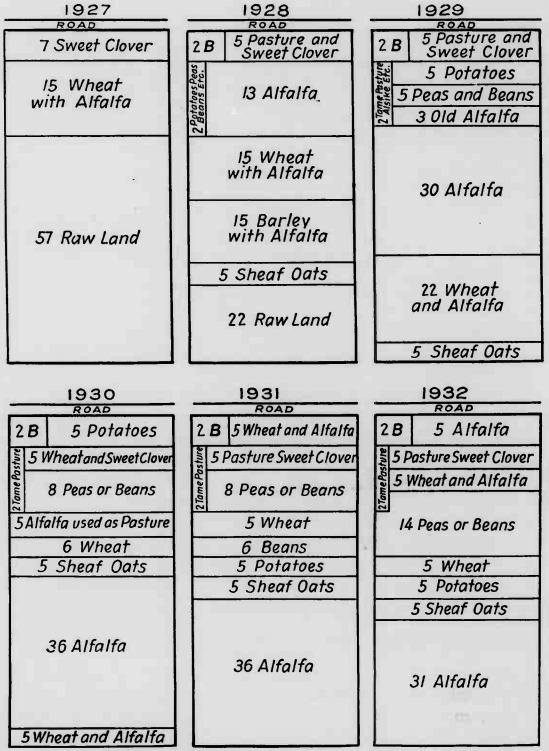
ROTATION OF CROPS NECESSARY FOR LARGE YIELDS

All settlers on this division should practice a crop rotation. The accompanying diagram of an 80-acre farm shows what this might include. New land in this vicinity is lacking in humus and can best be supplied with this by plowing under either alfalfa or sweet clover. As much of the farm should be planted to alfalfa and sweet clover the first year as possible, using wheat as a nurse crop.

After the rotation has been established, as shown in the fifth year, it will not be necessary to plow under the alfalfa so soon after planting. Various acreages of small grain, peas or beans, and potatoes can be planted, provided about one-half of the farm is kept in alfalfa and sweet clover.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Until settlement and development have reached a stage that will justify the construction of school houses and churches the settlers will take advantage of modern consolidated schools and the churches at Powell. Nearly all of the lands of the Willwood division are in the same school district as Powell, where there is a complete four-year high school. In this town are also all the fraternal and social organizations that are found in all the prosperous and up-to-date small western towns.



SUGGESTED INITIAL CROP ROTATION, 80 ACRE UNIT

B REPRESENTS BUILDINGS AND GARDENS - 2 ACRES
1 ACRE ALLOWED FOR ROADS

RECREATION

Farmers at Willwood will be within one-half a day's drive by automobile from the Cody entrance to the Yellowstone National Park. Before this is reached the canyon of the Shoshone River is entered, noted for its good road and excellent mountain scenery. Good roads penetrate the mountains in many directions and afford motoring as well as access to excellent fishing and camping grounds.

○

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE A FARM ON THE WILLWOOD DIVISION OF THE SHOSHONE PROJECT MAY BE SECURED BY ADDRESSING THOSE GIVEN BELOW:

Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D. C.

L. H. Mitchell, Superintendent, Shoshone Project, Powell, Wyo.

George C. Kreutzer, Director Reclamation Economics, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D. C.

Val Kuska, Colonization Agent, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co., Omaha, Nebr.

T. J. Cahill, Manager, State Department of Commerce and Industry, Cheyenne, Wyo.

County Agent, Cody, Wyo.

MSH 23532

END OF
TITLE